

REMARKS

The amendment merely cancels the claims drawn to the non-elected species in order to place the application in better condition for appeal. Applicant submits that the amendment does not add any new matter to the disclosure.

The invention centers on a staging for a large substrate such as a flat panel display screen. The invention provides an easily moved stage which is capable of fine adjustment for large scale pieces. The invention is especially characterized by use of a screw-based fine adjustment mechanism.

Sakino et al. (US 5,040,431) discloses a movement mechanism for a stage. Sakino et al. does not disclose or suggest use of a screw mechanism as part of a directional driving means, nor the use of a screw mechanism for fine adjustment.

Takahashi discloses a carriage for fine movement of a substrate where a screw based adjustment means is used to move the table. Takahashi does not disclose or suggest the concept of integrating such screw mechanism with a means for forcibly moving the table. Thus, applicant submits that the combination of Sakino et al. and Takahashi would not result in a configuration where the screw mechanism and forcible movement means are integrated. Moreover, applicant submits that the combination where the forcibly moving means of Sakino is replaced with the screw mechanisms of Takashi as proposed in the Official Action would result in elimination of the first forcibly moving means and thus not result in an apparatus where the screw mechanism and forcible movement means are integrated as required by the present claims.

For the above reasons, applicant submits that the claims are now patentable over the prior art of record and that the application is now in condition for allowance. Such allowance is earnestly and respectfully solicited.

Respectfully submitted,
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